

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE
HORTICULTURE, THE FARM
THE GARDEN.
NEW ENGLAND

JOURNAL OF

THE FARM, THE LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS
AGRICULTURE

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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN
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Agricultural.

Potato Growing.

We anticipate a large planting of the potato crop this year, and more especially of early potatoes, owing to the present high prices, and the condition of the soil so early in the spring being favorable for putting in the seed early. We do not expect prices to be as high another season as they have been this year, and expect that the Southern States, and perhaps the West India Islands, will begin to supply us almost before the farmers in New England can have their ground plowed.

Yet another dry season in some parts of the country may reduce the crop again, and help to keep prices up nearly to those that prevailed last summer and fall. Whether this shall be so or not, the great object of those who grow them for market or for home use must be to produce them as cheaply as possible, and this saving must be in the labor of caring for them more than in any other item of the expense. To try to economize in the cost of seed, in the preparation of the land, in the amount of fertilizer used or in the care of cultivating them is a false economy that reduces the value of the crop more than they save in the cost of production.

Few men who have been brought up on a farm need much instructions in regard to selecting the soil on which to grow a potato crop. While certain varieties will produce a potato much better for table use on a light soil, or what we would call a sandy loam, than on a clay or muck land, such soil must be liberally fertilized or it will not produce as large a crop as the heavier or stronger soil. It is, therefore, often better for use by those whose crop is mostly for home consumption than for a market crop.

One of the first requisites for obtaining a good crop is to use good seed. First, seed of a variety that is known to be productive in the section where it is grown, and upon such soil as it is to be planted upon. We would always select our seed in the fall, if we used only that of our own growth. We would take it from the most prolific hills that we could find in harvesting our crop. We would not choose the largest tubers, but we would reject such as appeared to be immature or unripe. We know that some have said that the smaller and practically ripe seed gave an earlier crop than those more mature, but we think the difference is not more important than that which a certain man found who tested a new variety and thought it was ready for market "about fifteen minutes earlier than the Early Rose." We would reject the large or overgrown specimens because we have found so many of them defective in the center, or hollow hearted, besides that it takes more of them to plant a field.

Having selected our seed tubers in the fall from the prolific hills, and those that were true to the type of the variety, we would barrel them up and head the barrel to prevent changes of temperature while stored, trying to keep the place where they were not cooler than 35° or warmer than 45°. Though the barrels are well headed, a little above or below these temperatures may not affect them unless it should be long continued. Potatoes that have been kept in storage for a long time are likely to have lost some part of their vitality and germinate slowly, while the sprouts are weakened by throwing out sprouts prematurely.

Two or three weeks before planting they can be taken out to a warmer room, where there is much sunlight, and allowed to put out short sprouts. If there is too much sunlight the sprouts will be tender and break off when they are handled in preparing for planting. We would not care to have the sprouts over a half-inch long, unless we wanted to set them by hand, so that the sprout was above ground when the seed was put in. This last method we have tried for a private garden, when we wanted to have a few earlier than our neighbors, but it would pay where they are grown for market, unless a very early crop could be proved profitable.

Proper preparation of the ground is one of the most important considerations in growing the potato crop. While it can be grown in wet and cold ground, and we have seen the seed put in when the earth that was not over it was scarcely thawed, we have seen other fields planted about two weeks later, with the soil more thoroughly worked and warmer, produce more abundant potatoes quite as early, and much better crops. We will not say that this was entirely owing to the later planting, but the soil was naturally very much alike, and the fertilizer applied was about the same. The later planted field may have been the better cultivated, as the opinion of the owner was to thoroughly

work his land after planting as well as before.

We think unless the seed pieces are put in so that the sprouts are out of the ground, or nearly ready to come out when planted, it would be well to go over the field at least once, and perhaps twice, with a light harrow, to kill the weeds that are likely to start in a liberally manured and well-worked field before the planted seed comes out so that it can be seen. A good old farmer told us years ago that it was easy to kill weeds when they first began to show green on the ground, but it was easier to kill them before they could be seen at all.

The distance at which the rows and hills

It has been very customary for some of the speakers at our dairy meetings to compare the price of American butter in England with that of the "best Danish or Holland butter," and say that this was because of the greater cleanliness in the European dairies. If such talk has induced any of our dairymen or creamerymen to take better care of their cows, or to be more careful in the dairy-room and in the handling of milk, we are glad of it. Maj. H. E. Alvord sprung something of a surprise at the meeting of the Kansas State Dairy Association in his talk on "Dairying in Europe," when he told them that he found about as much untidiness in Euro-

pean dairies as in the United States. Even in Holland, of which so much has been said in regard to the cleanliness of the stables, he found the average cow stable to be poorly arranged, badly ventilated, badly lighted, and very unclean in winter when the cows were at home. The housing and care of cattle in Europe, as a rule, is no better than that in this country, and we have individual animals in this country better than the best they can show.

The trouble has been, not that good butter has not been made here, but that it was in such good demand here that it could be sold for more in any Eastern city market than in England, and English buyers or their agents or the exporters have not looked for the best grades for export trade, but have preferred to take lower grades with which this market has been overstocked, and which sell better in England than in this country. So long as this is kept up we must expect that the prices of Danish, Dutch and Irish butter will be higher in London than those of American or Canadian butter, because they send the best they make to England, and are contented to use their poorest, or even old products, for themselves.

Professor Curtis of the Iowa Experiment Station makes a statement which we never saw before, and yet we would not want to dispute it. From certain remembrance of our experience and observation, we should rather feel like endorsing it. He says: "Suppressing milk secretion tends to weaken fecundity, and thereby, to shorten the reproductive period of the breeding animal. The best milkers are almost invariably the best breeders in the herd. The shy breeders are rarely, if ever, found among the heavy milkers. Cows that do not milk well seldom breed regularly until advanced age is reached, and what calves they do raise will be stunted unless provided with a nurse cow."

The most important reason for combining milking quality with beef, however, is rarely considered at all. It is a prime factor in maintaining smoothness and quality. To suppress milk is to curtail fecundity or breeding quality, and to curtail or check breeding quality tends to unsex the animal, and as a direct result, the females become coarse and masculine. They not only tend to become coarse and masculine in appearance, but coarse in substance and texture. The scant milker becomes a shy breeder, and grows gaudy and uneven in her flesh. It is a rare exception to find a Shorthorn that will carry its flesh smoothly and evenly to maturity, unless descended from good milking ancestry."

The Maine Experiment Station says that the food value of skim milk is not properly appreciated. Five pounds or 2½ quarts of skim milk have about the same amount of protein and very nearly the same food value as a pound of round steak, and two quarts have more protein and more nutrition than a quart of oysters. It is so readily assimilated that it does not long satisfy the cravings of hunger. It is most valuable when taken with bread or used in cooking. The Journal of the British Dairy Farmers' Association reports that 280 pounds of flour would take up 175 pounds of water, and less in baking, making 380 pounds of bread. The same amount of flour took up 210 pounds of skim milk, and shrunk 50 pounds in baking, making 440 pounds of bread. As the four-pound loaf sells at ten cents for

water bread and eleven cents for skim milk bread, this shows a value of \$2.50 for the milk. In making scones they mixed fourteen pounds of American flour, eleven pounds of skim milk, three ounces each of bicarbonate of soda and cream of tartar. This dough, cut into pieces weighing six ounces, and baked on a hot iron plate, made twenty-five pounds of scones, only shrinking six ounces. For pancakes they mixed the same amount of flour and leavening material with sixteen pounds of skim milk, and cooked on a hot greased plate, it made thirty pounds of pancakes. As nearly equal amounts of flour and skim milk were used, the milk had about the

same commercial value as the flour. The Maine Station tested the comparative value of bread made with water and with skim milk, and found the milk bread had about one per cent. more protein than the water bread. In a digestion test with a pepsin solution they differed but little, about ninety-four per cent. of each being digested. In soups, chowders and stews skim milk will satisfactorily replace whole milk, also in quick biscuits, griddle cakes and most kinds of cakes, and if sour only one-half the amount of cream of tartar called for in the recipe for cake need be used. When sweet, skim milk can be used for Indian puddings, rice puddings, custards, pumpkin and squash pies, and in preparing chocolate and cocoa, as well as many other things known to the housekeepers, for which they are accustomed to use the whole milk.

Doubling the Capacity of the Farm.
A correspondent of an Eastern agricultural journal has the following to say as to the great value of the corn crop in the form of ensilage in addition to the capacity of the farm for the keeping of stock:
"A farm that has been stocked to its fullest capacity with dairy animals for ten years, growing corn for ensilage, and purchasing nitrogenous grains, will be producing twice the amount of fodder as at the beginning if the business has been properly handled. Here is a profit in the production of milk that is not always taken into account, and which should be credited to it."

The above statement, at first thought, may appear to be most too large for common acceptance, yet much evidence in its truthfulness could be produced from a truly number of farmers in different States.

From the writer's own experience and from those who are following out the plan outlined above, although perhaps not yet extending to ten years, it is being found that the system is working most favorably in the direction of increased production of crops on the farm, which, of course, means the capacity for the keeping of more stock, and along with this the making of more manure with which to grow still larger crops.

The following out of this plan to its most profitable extent will mean having one-fourth of the arable land at least in corn year to year. This would make a four-year rotation, with grass for hay only two years in succession. Allowing that an acre of corn on an average would produce twelve tons of ensilage, which is often exceeded, and that the average of hay would be one and a half tons to the acre, with a longer rotation, and that, as it is claimed, three tons of ensilage are equal to one ton of average hay in feeding value, then the ensilage from one acre would be equal to the hay from nearly three acres.

This would go some ways toward doubling the stock-keeping capacity of the farm, but this is not all the gain that would be obtained. The shorter rotation, in which there is more frequent plowing, cultivation and fertilizing for corn, with only from two to three years in grass, instead of twice that length of time according to the old methods, means much larger crops than used to be obtained on the same acreage.

And still another advantage will be the better quality of the hay in its freedom from weeds and a much larger proportion of clover as a result of a shorter rotation. This

last is found to be a decided advantage, as the clover is just what is wanted along with the ensilage to help make a more profitable ration for the production of milk and butter.

Some have an idea that the raising of so much corn would materially reduce the crops of hay, but as a usual thing this is not the case. It will be found that most farmers having silos find that their crops of hay keep well up, notwithstanding the smaller acreage, and instead of a scarcity of this product there is a surplus for sale or for the keeping of more stock.

It will be seen at once that with so much ensilage there is much less necessity for a large amount of hay. The feeding of

the Arkansas station; the best "Soils for Strawberries" shows the general conclusions arrived at by various stations as to what they consider the best soil and fertilizers for largest yield and finest quality of strawberries. The Vermont, Kansas and Wisconsin experiment stations send in reports on "Plum Culture." Other subjects treated are "Methods of Growing Onions," "The Digestibility of Raw, Pasteurized and Cooked Milk," "The Dairy Cow and the Weather" and "Feed Mills and Windmills." The bulletin is free to farmers, upon application to members of Congress or the Secretary of Agriculture.

The house committee on agriculture, in order to expedite the final disposition of the oleomargarine bill, has decided to recommend the acceptance of the Senate amendments which prevented any loopholes for violation of the law. Inasmuch as the Senate has made some changes in the method of fixing the tax, the opponents of the bill claim that the new amendments must be considered by the House of Representatives in committee of the whole, since, under the Constitution, all appropriation measures must originate in the House of Representatives, unless a special rule is adopted allowing the bill to be accepted as amended by the Senate. They claim that such a rule will not be given, in consequence of which another fight may be on in the "quarreling" body.

Professor King of the Wisconsin Station has made a study of the effectiveness of various feed mills found on the market, when driven by windmills and gas engines.

With one of the best combinations of windmill and feed mill, the rate of grinding, with the wind velocity about thirty miles, was twenty-five bushels per hour.

With gasoline engines as the motive power, "the average amount of corn ground per horse power per hour was about five bushels."

An estimate is made that at the rates ordinarily paid the grinding of feed for thirty cows for two hundred days would cost about \$37, while the same amount of feed may be ground with a five-horse power gasoline engine for about \$14.

Fifty-seven dollars "is ten per cent. interest on a much larger sum," says Professor King, "than would be required to fit up an automatic grinding plant with the twelve-foot windmill, the price of the mill and ninety-foot tower being \$160, and the capacity of such a grinding plant would be many times what would be demanded for a herd of thirty cows."

The commission of postal experts which has been investigating the question of letter boxes on rural free delivery routes has submitted its report to the Postmaster General. The recommendations of the commission will be welcome to farmers all over the country, who at present must purchase their boxes from one of the fourteen manufacturing establishments approved by the department. The commission believes that the farmers should be allowed to use any boxes they desire, so long as they are made to meet the requirements of the department as to size, shape and materials.

Some timely figures just issued by the Treasury Department show that the sugar consumption of the United States has grown from 1,272,426,342 pounds in 1870 to 5,313,937,840 pounds in 1901; or, from thirty-three pounds per capita in 1870 to sixty-six pounds per capita in 1901. Of the 5,313,937,840 pounds consumed in 1901, 985,568,640 pounds, or more than one-sixth, were produced in the United States, 832,205,760 pounds, or about another sixth, were produced in our insular possessions, while the remaining two-thirds, 3,476,213,440 pounds, were imported. Of the 985,568,640 pounds of sugar produced in the United States, about one-third was from beets and two-thirds from cane.

The first cow census in the United States occurred in 1840; since then they have been counted every ten years. There are now thought to be about 18,000,000 dairy cattle in this country, which allows one cow for about every four persons.

Three and one-half pounds of cheese, it is estimated by the Department of Agriculture, is the average annual consumption by each person in the United States.

GUY E. MITCHELL.

We have a Chicago market report of April 3 which quotes the following prices on hogs: selected bacon, 150 to 175 pounds, \$6.50 to \$6.75; mixed grades, 180 to 240 pounds, \$6.00 to \$6.75; heavy packing, 280 to 350 pounds, \$6.75 to \$6.85, and heavy shipping, 260 to 350 pounds, \$6.50 to \$7.50 per hundredweight. What have the agricultural papers that a year or two ago were urging breeders to give up their Poland Chinas fed on corn, and put the slab-sided Tamworths and the Florida razor backs to furnish bacon to the aristocratic buyers of bacon from Ireland and Denmark to say to this. We believe that with corn as unusually high priced as it is now, he can make the three-hundred-pound hog about as cheaply on corn and corn meal as he can the 175-pound one on bran, oats and barley, which they advocated so strongly two years ago, especially if the feeder has what they called then the "lard hog," and not the "bacon hog," with as much lean as fat in its thin sides. We heard years ago of the man who tried to grow his pork with a streak of fat and a streak of lean, by feeding it one day and letting it go hungry the next, but no one ever told us that he had it any better or cheaper by that method.

The city council joint committee returns from an investigation of other city markets with the comforting assurance that they are none of them up to the Boston standard.



PRIZE SHORTHORNS

Pure-Bred Bulls.

We do not need registered cattle for the ordinary stock yard, but the man who starts with common cows and always has a fine registered bull at the head is getting something which is pretty close to registered cattle. This is the secret of maintaining a herd up to a standard which will make the animals as good for all practical purposes as any in the market. Farmers who raise beef cattle are not breeders, but they must be peculiarly alive to the methods observed by the best breeders. They must recognize the fact that a herd quickly degenerates if left to itself. A very practical way to keep the animals from degenerating is to see that full-blooded bulls head the flocks. A beef grower should have a herd on hand at all times large enough to warrant the expense of keeping a fine bull at the head. Cost what it will such a bull must be had, and if raised on the farm it must meet all the requirements of the case. Pure-bred bulls must be constantly added to the flock to prevent degeneration through inbreeding. The common cows obtained at a comparatively nominal cost will produce progeny that will partake of the characteristics of the sire sufficiently to make them first-class beef cattle.

Take even common scrub cows, with absolutely nothing except hardness of constitution to recommend them, and breed them continuously to full-blooded bulls, and in the course of a few generations how few of the scrub characteristics will there be left? They will be bred out of them just as surely as the good characteristics of full-blooded stock will disappear under careless methods of breeding within a short time. We need to breed for purer and better stock, and if this is kept in view we are pretty sure to raise the standard of the herd. Farmers are not required to follow all the fine points which the professional breeder observes, but it is necessary that they should realize the advantages of full-blooded males at the head of every herd. Money spent in this way will be amply returned. A little additional weeding out of the poorest cows of the herd, and the selection of the best for further breeding, will be sufficient to accomplish the desired end.

MINNEAPOLIS.

WALLACE SIMMONS.

Notes from Washington, D. C.

The Department of Agriculture has now in press Farmers' Bulletin No. 149, which is devoted to "Experiment Station Work."

It is described various subjects of interest to farmers, among them being "The Value of Muck or Peat," as a fertilizer, as tested by the New Hampshire Experiment Station; "Improved Culture of Potatoes," being experiments by the Cornell Experiment Station; "The Farmer's Vegetable Garden," in which is given data showing the cost of a vegetable garden which the farmer might conduct to supply his own table with fresh green truck the year round; "The Shrinkage of Farm Products," experiments by various stations in the United States; "Transplanting and Manuring Muskmelons," from

We do not see how a bull out of the pen can help being a great sire, and we believe that Mr. Wheatey certainly has a prize.

Lowell, Mass. H. J. PARK.

—In pointing out ways to increase American trade in China our consul at Nanking, Mr. Miller, calls attention to some interesting peculiarities in the Chinese mind. He says that the Chinese, he says, to handle the things they use very carefully, and for this reason they make cheap and poorly made articles last much longer than do other people. They make things that seem to us to be a flimsy way, and are very economical. Large quantities of old scrap iron are imported to China to be worked over into cheap useful articles in the small blacksmith shops all over the country. The intense love throughout the country for the old and the use of the Chinese for decorative and artistic enamels for such things as they buy cheap articles of the kind, such as in our country can only be distributed gratis for advertising purposes.

Articles of unquestionable value. Tested by most prominent fanciers. Taken easily by lodging in bits of bread, fish or meat. Sent by mail on receipt of price.

C. N. CRITTENTON CO.,
115 Fulton St., New York City

The Markets.

BOSTON LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

MARKETS OF LIVE STOCK AT WATERTOWN
AND BOSTON, APRIL 25, 1902.
For the week ending April 23, 1902.

Shotes
and
Cattle Sheep Suckers Fat Hogs Veals

W. H. L. 2862 5270 100 28.71 3437
L. H. L. 2862 5270 100 28.71 3437
L. H. L. 2862 5270 100 28.71 3437

Prices on Northern Cattle.
Per hundred pounds on total weight of
the animal and meat, extra, 60.00; first
quality, 55.00; second quality, 50.00; third
quality, 45.00; fourth quality, 40.00; fifth
quality, 35.00; sixth quality, 30.00; seventh
quality, 25.00; eighth quality, 20.00; ninth
quality, 15.00; tenth quality, 10.00; eleventh
quality, 5.00; twelfth quality, 0.00.

AND YOUNG CALVES—Fair quality
extra, 60.00; extra, 55.00; extra, 50.00; extra,
45.00; extra, 40.00; extra, 35.00; extra, 30.00;
extra, 25.00; extra, 20.00; extra, 15.00; extra,
10.00; extra, 5.00; extra, 0.00.

Thin young cattle for farmers: Year-
lings, 10.00; two-year-olds, 15.00; three-year-
olds, 20.00; four-year-olds, 25.00; five-year-
olds, 30.00; six-year-olds, 35.00; seven-year-
olds, 40.00; eight-year-olds, 45.00; nine-year-
olds, 50.00; ten-year-olds, 55.00; eleven-year-
olds, 60.00; twelve-year-olds, 65.00; thirteen-year-
olds, 70.00; fourteen-year-olds, 75.00; fifteen-year-
olds, 80.00; sixteen-year-olds, 85.00; seventeen-year-
olds, 90.00; eighteen-year-olds, 95.00; nineteen-year-
olds, 100.00; twenty-year-olds, 105.00; twenty-one-
year-olds, 110.00; twenty-two-year-olds, 115.00;
twenty-three-year-olds, 120.00; twenty-four-year-
olds, 125.00; twenty-five-year-olds, 130.00; twenty-
six-year-olds, 135.00; twenty-seven-year-olds, 140.00;
twenty-eight-year-olds, 145.00; twenty-nine-year-
olds, 150.00; thirty-year-olds, 155.00; thirty-one-
year-olds, 160.00; thirty-two-year-olds, 165.00;
thirty-three-year-olds, 170.00; thirty-four-year-
olds, 175.00; thirty-five-year-olds, 180.00; thirty-
six-year-olds, 185.00; thirty-seven-year-olds, 190.00;
thirty-eight-year-olds, 195.00; thirty-nine-year-
olds, 200.00; forty-year-olds, 205.00; forty-one-
year-olds, 210.00; forty-two-year-olds, 215.00;
forty-three-year-olds, 220.00; forty-four-year-
olds, 225.00; forty-five-year-olds, 230.00; forty-
six-year-olds, 235.00; forty-seven-year-olds, 240.00;
forty-eight-year-olds, 245.00; forty-nine-year-
olds, 250.00; fifty-year-olds, 255.00; fifty-one-
year-olds, 260.00; fifty-two-year-olds, 265.00;
fifty-three-year-olds, 270.00; fifty-four-year-
olds, 275.00; fifty-five-year-olds, 280.00; fifty-
six-year-olds, 285.00; fifty-seven-year-olds, 290.00;
fifty-eight-year-olds, 295.00; fifty-nine-year-
olds, 300.00; sixty-year-olds, 305.00; sixty-one-
year-olds, 310.00; sixty-two-year-olds, 315.00;
sixty-three-year-olds, 320.00; sixty-four-year-
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six-year-olds, 335.00; sixty-seven-year-olds, 340.00;
sixty-eight-year-olds, 345.00; sixty-nine-year-
olds, 350.00; seventy-year-olds, 355.00; seventy-
one-year-olds, 360.00; seventy-two-year-olds, 365.00;
seventy-three-year-olds, 370.00; seventy-four-year-
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six-year-olds, 385.00; seventy-seven-year-olds, 390.00;
seventy-eight-year-olds, 395.00; seventy-nine-year-
olds, 400.00; eighty-year-olds, 405.00; eighty-one-
year-olds, 410.00; eighty-two-year-olds, 415.00;
eighty-three-year-olds, 420.00; eighty-four-year-
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six-year-olds, 435.00; eighty-seven-year-olds, 440.00;
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615.00; one hundred and twenty-three-year-olds, 620.00;
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year-olds, 690.00; one hundred and thirty-eight-year-
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one hundred and forty-one-year-olds, 710.00; one
hundred and forty-two-year-olds, 715.00; one hundred
and forty-three-year-olds, 720.00; one hundred and
forty-four-year-olds, 725.00; one hundred and forty-
five-year-olds, 730.00; one hundred and forty-six-year-
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740.00; one hundred and forty-eight-year-olds, 745.00;
one hundred and forty-nine-year-olds, 750.00; one
hundred and fifty-year-olds, 755.00; one hundred and
fifty-one-year-olds, 760.00; one hundred and fifty-two-
year-olds, 765.00; one hundred and fifty-three-year-
olds, 770.00; one hundred and fifty-four-year-olds,
775.00; one hundred and fifty-five-year-olds, 780.00;
one hundred and fifty-six-year-olds, 785.00; one
hundred and fifty-seven-year-olds, 790.00; one hundred
and fifty-eight-year-olds, 795.00; one hundred and
fifty-nine-year-olds, 800.00; one hundred and sixty-
year-olds, 805.00; one hundred and sixty-one-year-
olds, 810.00; one hundred and sixty-two-year-olds,
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hundred and twenty-six-year-olds, 3135.00; six
hundred and twenty-seven-year-olds, 3140.00; six
hundred and twenty-eight-year-olds, 314

Our Homes.

The Workbox.

MOUNTMELLICK SILK EMBROIDERY.
The advantage of this beautiful work is that it works up fast, and most of the silk is coarse. The Corticelli Mountmellick embroidery silk comes in four sizes, F, FF, G, and H, finest to coarsest in the order named, and comes in white, grey, which is the color most used, and there is a Delft blue, 794, only. Use a No. 7 Harper's needle to carry silk FF, A No. 6 for F, No. 5 for size G, and No. 4 for size H.
Mountmellick embroidery is very beautiful, and at the same time is strong and durable. The foundation may be satin damask, satin jean or any other firm material. Quills, shell covers, nightdress sachets, mats, pin cushions, table centres, etc. Give the embroidery plenty of room, so to speak, always remembering the work is "heavy," so says the article in issue of Home Needlework, October, 1900. Many of the stitches used for Mountmellick work are similar to those employed in regular needlework on linen. Flowers are mostly worked in satin stitch, highly raised. Leaves are sometimes worked in satin stitch, without padding, but just as frequently they are given the raised effect. Flowers are embellished with French knots and fancy stitches, and the leaves often have a row of French knots on the outside, and are filled in with knots, and the veins put in with cat, brier or feather stitch. Berries are represented by clusters of French knots. Buttonhole stitch with the coarsest silk is used to finish edges, although Torsion lace is sometimes put on.
I recently saw a coarse blue linen hem-stitched table cover a yard and a quarter square, worked all in white with the different sizes of Corticelli Mountmellick embroidery silk. The design was pearls with leaves brought out in fancy stitches. Another cover of green had a design of cherries. I will gladly give any further information on the subject. EVA M. NILES.

Is Yawning Contagious?

"See that man stifling a yawn?" said the man who takes an interest in curious little things to his neighbor. "Well, keep your eye open and see what happens."

The man who had unlatched his jaws was sitting with three or four hundred others in a stuffy little church where a masculine looking female severely clothed in black was holding forth on the subject of "The Predisposition of the Fijian Toward the Softening Influence of Christianity." The talk was dreary and wearisome enough, but hardly so depressing as to account for the maxillary manifestations that followed the initial yawn.

One by one the gloved hands went lazily up all over the house to cover the undue display of dental furniture. Dozens of bored listeners to the right and left of the man who first spread his jaws sought relief in good, wide, satisfying yawns. Dozens more in front and behind the pioneer yawned broadly one after another. In a few minutes the epidemic died away as quickly as it came.

"Did you observe all that and catch on to what I was driving at?" said the philosopher in odds and ends. "Perhaps you didn't see the connection, but it is a fact that everybody in the room yawned for no other reason in the world than because the first man did. I won't attempt to explain the mental or physical phenomenon of the reason why yawns are as contagious as cholera, but it nevertheless is true."
"It's a funny thing as well as curious, but anybody who happens to think to watch people around him may see the same yawning epidemic follow a single facial stretch. I don't know what causes it; I dare say you know no more about it than I do, and I never heard of a doctor who could explain it. The single and singular fact remains that whenever two or more persons are together, and one of them yawns unconsciously or with intent, all the others in the party will follow suit without knowing what they are doing. I say the first yawner need not do it unconsciously, if he wishes in the interest of science to test the working of the phenomena."

"I was on a North Side street car the other day with a friend when I happened to think of this very thing. I turned to my companion, and for want of a better subject to gossip about, I told him pretty much what I am telling you. He scoffed at the idea, said I must have been carried away by a coincidence, or even by what Edward Everett Hale calls a 'coincidence of the third order,' but I knew I was right. To prove the thing I tried a practical demonstration. 'Now,' I said to him, 'watch what follows.'"

"There were about twenty people in the car, men and women, going home in the evening. I didn't know a soul of the lot. I clapped my hands quickly and loudly, and then when everybody in the car stared at me to ascertain the reason for the unusual noise, I put my hand to my mouth and 'gaped,' as they call it in the rural districts, widely and ostentatiously. Nothing happened for about a minute, but I was beginning to fear that my theories were no good when a haughty woman in the corner of the car saved the day. She yawned so that I had a splendid view of her esophagus before she got her hand to her face to hide the display. The day was saved, for in another minute three-fourths of the people in the car were concealing yawns. My friend was forced to admit that it looked queer."

"I know a mean-spirited man who ruined an oratorical effort one night by starting an epidemic of jaw-stretching. This person went on one occasion to hear a speaker for whom he had a particular dislike. The man who was to talk was very vain as well as very brilliant, and kept close watch on his audience to see how they were touched by his silvery eloquence. He was of the sort that encouragement spurs, and the slightest discouragement casts down utterly for the time being. Well, this mean-spirited man, in the midst of the orator's most brilliant flow of words, leaned back in his chair and yawned so that everybody in the house could see him. I give you my word that that yawn killed the speech. People all over the house commenced to show their teeth, and the astonished speaker for five minutes stared with growing mortification down into the faces of an audience that was manifesting every symptom of extreme boredom. He was so frustrated and broken up that he lost the train of his thought and began to ramble all around 'Robin Hood's barn.' Finally he brought the ill-starred effort to a close, limped and lame, and there was not a hand raised to applaud him, and I have that story on excellent authority."

"The phenomenon affects men, women and children alike. That much I have gathered from close observation. Just how it influences fools and drunken persons I observe, as yet had little opportunity to observe, but I am inclined to think that in the case of the former class it will work the same. Anyway, make a few observations for your-

self and try and solve the problem."—Indianapolis Journal.

For Tired, Nervous Women.

Learn how to do nothing. Practice cultivating complete rest. Any woman can do it. Begin by completely relaxing every nerve and muscle for five minutes a day. If you are a home woman go to your own room, and give orders that in no event are you to be disturbed. Draw the curtains and close the door; lie down if possible.
Say to yourself: "I have left care and worry and anxiety outside my door. I will rest my soul and body absolutely for these few precious moments."

Wide-awake repose, if complete, will prove inestimably restful. A few minutes of absolute relaxation, literally thinking of nothing, will greatly revitalize the nervous woman.
With regard to the amount of sleep required for women, an author of repute says well that one aspect of this subject is frequently overlooked. Extremely energetic women appear to take a virtuous pride in limiting themselves to four or five hours sleep, really grudging that, and considering it more a disgraceful evidence of laziness and a reprehensible waste of time.

Now, viewed simply from a purely material and hygienic point, this is an error. It is quite possible to accustom yourself to so little sleep as to be greatly the loser thereby. It may not show immediately, but it will in the end.

From seven to eight hours' sleep is needed by all people leading active lives, and brain workers can least afford to cut down their allowance. If for any reason it is occasionally necessary it should be made up by extra sleep as soon as possible. Any other course undermines the strength insidiously, and the penalty is invariably a breakdown of some sort. The severer the tasks imposed upon the brain, the more sleep it should be allowed.

The woman who cannot sleep is always a nervous subject. She should religiously take enough physical exercise each day to induce healthful fatigue. She should eat simple, easily digested food, avoiding tea and coffee later than her breakfast hour. Many a woman declares that tea and coffee have no effect upon their nerves. I know they are mistaken. Coffee and tea are excellent excitants and enemies of sleep.

The insomnia victim may be lulled to rest by a gentle massage—the hypnotic stroke will often act as a magical sleep inducer. Sometimes a rub with hair friction gloves will induce sleep. A tepid bath taken just before retiring has a sedative effect. But a hot bath is stimulating, and should not be taken at night by nervous subjects.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Avoiding Colds.

A writer in the Lancet says: "Since I began to study diet, I have been astonished at the number of cases of which I have heard, even of medical men, who, by eating less and not so often, have found that their susceptibility to colds has quite gone. Such facts as I have met with point to the conclusion that it is the system overcharged with the products of food which was not required, and can act only as a poison to every organ in the body, which is most susceptible to colds."

First Steps in Nursing.

"What is a nurse's first duty on entering a sickroom?" is an examination question that has tossed many a poor undergraduate, said a nurse yesterday.

"That it is a duty to approach the bedside, and address the patient quietly and cheerfully, mentally noting his or her condition meanwhile, does not strike an outsider as being so strictly a part of nursing as taking a temperature or giving a dose of medicine. As a matter of fact, an observant nurse, in nine cases out of ten, will have gained a very fair idea in those first few minutes of the patient's character, and symptoms of the malady, and at the end of that time will know just how to set about taking the next step. This will probably be to make the sufferer as comfortable as the nature of the disease will allow."

"The bed, as a general rule, is what demands the nurse's immediate attention, and the patient's sign or grunt of satisfaction usually following her ministrations in this respect is proof sufficient that she is experienced in 'handling' the sick."

"A good mattress (hair by choice) is the only bedding proper for a sick person to lie on, not only for the sake of ease and comfort, but for hygienic reasons as well."

"Bed making is a neglected art, most people being satisfied to cover a bed tidily with the necessary clothes and fancy that it is made, whereas it is really a business that calls for some degree of skill that is acquired only by constant practice. The following rules, however, are standard, and should be observed by all in attendance on the sick:

"The under sheet should be well tucked in at the top and sides—a shortage at the foot is immaterial, provided it is drawn taut and smooth. There is nothing more disagreeable than a loose, rumpled under sheet."
"In the case of unconscious patients, a wide strip of rubber sheeting or oilcloth the width of bed should be securely pinned to the edges of the mattress; over this place a draw sheet (a piece of sheeting three-quarters of a yard or a yard wide and long enough to tuck in at the sides), in order to protect the bed and facilitate changing."

"The upper sheet and blanket must be tucked in well at the foot of the bed, at the same time not so tightly as to prevent free movement of the patient's limbs."

"A large clean sheet is preferable to a counterpane or quilt for the sick bed."
"Let all coverings be warm, but light in weight; it is better to maintain an equable temperature in the room (70° to 72° F.) than to reduce the strength of an already weakened system by the use of heavy coverings."

"It is presumed that the common laws of health are so well understood in the present day as not to need a warning word of the dangers that lurk in the old-fashioned feather bed."

"In the first place, it generates too great heat. In the next, it has a tendency to get hard and lumpy unless shaken up each day, which in acute cases is absolutely impossible, and the unfortunate patient in consequence has to endure unnecessary discomfort."

"Lastly, the feather bed is a snug hiding-place for the germs of many diseases, and has often proved a bed of death when the patient has been taken from it."

"When members of a family relieve each other in the care of the sick, it is always well before entering a sickroom to brush the hair, clean the nails and trim them very close; scrub the hands (the word 'scrub' is used professionally and advisedly), put on a fresh apron, likewise a cheerful expression, and on no account sit on the sick person's bed or lean up against it. The observance of these details, insignificant in themselves, imperceptibly adds much to the comfort of a patient."—N. Y. Tribune.

Kissing the Baby.

There are many mothers who give themselves infinite trouble about the big and obvious things connected with nursery management,—who strive bravely to be up-to-date in the matter of plumbing, ventilation and infectious diseases,—who yet fall woefully when it comes to certain details. One of the most important of these is the disgusting and dangerous habit of allowing every comer to kiss and maul the baby.

A baby, no doubt, is a delightful object and almost irresistible, but that is no reason why advantage should be taken of his helpless condition to offer him constant hygienic outrages.

Here is a speech a well-meaning goose of a young mother made to the father of her child on his return from business. "Mr. Smith called today, John. She has a fearful cold and sore throat. She thought the baby was just too sweet for anything, and wouldn't let him out of her arms. He took to her wonderfully, too." Naturally the baby developed a bad case of the sniffles in a day or two, and then it was: "The baby has a dreadful cold. We cannot think where he got it, we are always so careful."

This mother and the hundreds like her should be taught the lesson that, practically, kissing is a bad and vulgar habit, productive of much danger to adults as well as to children. Adults can protect themselves if they like, but infants cannot, and so it is the duty of the mothers to protect them.

Even if they mercifully escape actual infection in babyhood, there still remains the fact that a silly and unclean habit is formed, resulting in schools full of kissing children, and by and by in ridiculous communities of kissing acquaintances. We may learn a useful lesson from the Japanese in this regard. They do not kiss the face, and the children do not know what it means, except perhaps from their mothers. It is generally acknowledged that the Japanese babies are the healthiest and happiest of youngsters, and who shall say how much wholesome restraint from the kissing habit may have to do with this fortunate state of affairs?

To make too much of children is to spoil them, but in one respect they should be treated like royalty,—if they must be kissed it should be only the back of the hand.—Youth's Companion.

The Table's Linen.

It seems after all that the habit which obtains among housekeepers of the wise and thrifty sort, of taking account of the stock table linen with a view to replenishing it, and of adding at the same time all the new and desirable effects in that line, has been brought into being for their use and appreciation, is founded on an old custom. For in old times there was a woman's festival justly known as "St. Distaff's Day," and it began the first working day after the Christmas holidaying. Distaffs were brought out again and the work of spinning went on as before the interruption.

It was in New York that the first linen "sales" were inaugurated by a woman whose name will stand at the top in the history of the dry goods business in this country. Quickly the large stores in his own city and in others followed suit, and now the first two months in the year are those in which selections are made for all the details that come under the head of "table linen."

As every woman knows that in table linen "the best is the cheapest," there is no need to give advice here as to the kind to be chosen. Rather it is the province of the present writer to contribute to the subject just a few hints not known to every housekeeper for the safe keeping and restoring of table linen. To begin in the laundry and work up, it is taking a risk always to have the damask cloths dried out of doors in freezing weather. The heavier they are the more apt they are to crack if frozen, and to dry them in the house is therefore the more judicious way. But if necessity compels an out-of-doors drying then it should be seen to that the damask is not folded while frozen. Much harm may be avoided by an observance of this precaution.

Also the very best damask may take a notion to crack some day if it is laid too often on a sharp-edged table. But this rarely occurs now, when so many housekeepers use the blanketing under the cloth. Careful housekeepers never did have a tablecloth or napkin hemmed on the machine, and even those who have in the past been the error of their ways, or soon will be. In hemstitching, it is customary to give the tablecloth a two-inch hem, and the napkins one-half-inch wide, though sometimes the hem is even wider.

The best way of marking table linen is usually in the corner, and it may or may not be an improvement to the cloth. Much depends on how the marking is done. In the first place, monograms on a figured damask are apt to look blotchy, and, unless one has the key to the situation, are quite indecipherable. Initials, not too fanciful, are in better taste from every standpoint.

Probably, next to the breakage of cut glass, no household misfortune vexes the heart of the mistress as does a permanently stained tablecloth. Stains will come to it; it would be an impossibility to avoid them, but, taken in time, they may be eradicated completely and satisfactorily. But this process of eradication must be undertaken before the cloth is washed at all, otherwise the stain becomes indelible.

Ordinarily rust stains may be removed by pouring boiling water through them. It must actually be boiling, and really two persons should undertake the removal of the stain. One should hold the cloth out rather smoothly over a basin, and the other should pour slowly a pot of boiling water over and through the stained part. Tea and coffee stains may usually be got rid of by just this use of boiling water.

But if spots from the foregoing causes remain obdurate, or if by accident the cloth has been washed before the stains were noticed, then try dissolving four ounces each of chlorate of lime and washing soda in three quarts of boiling water. Pour this through the stain very slowly, and then rinse faithfully with boiling water, clear.

Iron rust may be removed by putting salt on the stains, squeezing lemon juice over it, and leaving in the sun. Sometimes one application will not be enough, but a second or third will not infrequently, two or even three treatments are necessary.

Some vegetables leave stains, and if one of the foregoing prescriptions fails to rid the cloth of them, try the others; then if all of them fail try wetting the stain, and holding under it the fumes of a burning sulphur match. Hold it there as long as any sulphur remains on it, and then strike another and another, till the good work is complete.

Ink is a troublesome nuisance, once it gets spilled on table linen, but when the offence is fresh plenty of soaking in sour milk will, as a rule, make the cloth as white as ever. If by any chance a hot iron scorches the cloth a bit, lay it in the sun for three or four

hours, and unless the burn has come too deep the wrong will be righted in the next washing of the whole cloth.

For the removing of wine stains of any kind, probably no plan is so efficacious as that of washing the stain, or wetting it, rather, with a strong soda made of hard, yellow laundry soap. After this, coat the stain very thickly with pulverized starch and lay it in the sun. After one good sun bath of two hours or so, the stain should disappear; still, if it does remain, do not be discouraged, but begin all over again, wetting it with the soda and giving it fresh starch.

Nothing removes paint from a tablecloth more happily than does turpentine, and you cannot do much more to do it better. Almost as by a miracle it disappears. Wipe a cloth well with the turpentine and keep it wet, rubbing the stain with it steadily. Varnish, of course, yields to the turpentine treatment as readily as does paint.

It is understood that any and all of these "removers" need to be applied as soon after stain makes its mark as is possible. Delay, while not proving fatal, does in all cases retard the prompt and satisfactory working of the eraser.—The Epitome.

Domestic Hints.

OLD-FASHIONED COUGH CANDY.
Pour over a gill of whole flaxseed half a pint of boiling water. In another dish, holding a cup of slippery elm, pour also enough boiling water to cover. Let these stand for two hours, then strain into a porcelain kettle containing a pound and a half of granulated sugar wet with the juice of two lemons. Press the strainer holding the seed and the elm in order to get their healing substances. Boil the mixture till it candies, and then on pans on which buttered paper has been spread.

CRANBERRY JELLY.
One quart of cranberries, one pint of granulated sugar and half a pint of water. Cook the cranberries in the water for twenty minutes. Then rub through the sieve and add the sugar. Cook ten minutes longer. Do not add more or less of the sugar, or the jelly will not mould. It should boil all the time it is cooking. The time during which an article is coming to the boiling point cannot be counted by the rule. The moment the liquid has cooked ten minutes, turn it into a mould and set in a cool place for twelve hours or more. Cranberries should be cooked in porcelain.

NET COOKIES.
One pound of light-brown sugar, two eggs, one cupful of lard, one cupful of sour milk, one generous teaspoonful of soda, one cupful of hickory or any preferred nuts, chopped fine, and enough flour to form a dough that will roll out. Rub the sugar and lard together and stir in the flour cream, and put in the eggs, which have been previously well beaten. Stir the soda into the milk and add that, then stir in the nuts. Add a little flour at a time until the dough is stiff enough, roll out thin and cut in round or fancy shapes. Place these on greased pans and bake in a quick oven for not more than five minutes.

LIVER HASH.
One pint of cooked liver, one cup of cold water, one tablespoonful of butter, one teaspoonful of flour, ditto of lemon juice, half a teaspoonful of salt and one-fourth of pepper; cut the liver into pieces the size of a penny, and measure after cutting; heat the butter and stir in the flour, cook and stirring until brown, then add the water gradually and season with the salt and pepper; place the liver in this sauce and simmer very gently twenty minutes; add the lemon juice and serve very hot.

PINEAPPLE WHIP.
Grate and drain on a sieve one pineapple. Beat the whites of three eggs to a froth, and add gradually three tablespoonfuls powdered sugar. Beat until stiff, then flavor with one tablespoonful sherry and one tablespoonful orange juice. Whip one pint of cream to a stiff froth and add slowly the beaten eggs. Pour in the pineapple gradually and set on the ice till very cold. Serve in ice-cream punch glasses.

RICHEURÉ JELLY.
Add to the foregoing recipe before removing from the fire one cup of granulated gelatine, which has been softened in two cupfuls of tepid water. Stir the mixture while heating, and add extra sugar to taste. When it is just about to boil remove from the fire, and pour into ring moulds that have been rinsed with cold water. When the mixture has cooled put it on ice to become firm. Sweeten one pint of cream, flavor with vanilla, and whip up to stiff froth. Turn the jelly border into a glass dish, fill the centre with whipped cream, and serve. A simple way of preparing richurée with cream is to take three parts of stewed rhubarb to one part of rich cream, and mix the whole just before serving. The rhubarb should be ice cold before the cream is added. Some persons press the hot rhubarb through a sieve when preparing it for this dessert.

Hints to Housekeepers.

A weak solution of oxalic acid and water is advised to clean and freshen leather chairs. They should be rubbed afterward with a chamois skin or woolen cloth.

Flannel blankets may be successfully cleaned by using borax and soft soap. Put two tablespoonfuls of borax and a pint of soft soap into a tub, and wash the blankets. When the borax and soap have become dissolved, put in the blankets and let them stand over night. The next day rub them out, rinse them in two waters and hang them to dry. Never wring them.

An easy and satisfactory way to remove dust from a painted floor is to wet a flannel bag, wring it out as dry as possible, put it on the broom and drag it in even strokes over the floor. All the dirt will in this way be collected in one place and can be easily taken up without leaving streaks of dust on the paint.

One can make such a great variety of frozen good things at home with comparatively little effort, and they are so much better and cheaper than those that are bought, that nowadays a kitchen is scarcely considered complete that does not number a freezer among its possessions. But if the family is small, do not make the great mistake of purchasing a large size in anticipation of "company days," better by far have two, the smaller one for general use, the larger one for occasions, and you will soon find it will pay in the difference of the time required, and the amount of ice consumed in the making.

To make candied sweet potatoes cut cold sweet potatoes in quarters or slices, and spread them on an earthen baking dish. Sprinkle them with bits of butter and granulated or brown sugar. Repeat with each layer, but if it is desired to have all the pieces brown have only one layer. Bake in a quick oven until the sugar has thoroughly dissolved and permeated the whole, and remove when it is slightly brown.

Cornstarch is a valuable food, but it rarely gets cooking enough to take away the raw taste and flavor that is natural to it in the uncooked state. Cornstarch cooking or the blanc-mange made from it is objected to by many persons, and particularly by children, to whom it would be, if palatable, a nourishing food.

The new hosier is very elaborate with hand embroidery and inset designs of lace and some are clever enough to do for themselves. Black stockings with white lace inset are very smart for evening wear, but the worst thing is to have the stockings match the gown. Embroidered rosebuds scattered over the entire stocking are one variety.

Fashion Notes.

••••• Riton suits of dark-toned cloth are in great demand for cool spring days, in spite of the efforts of merchants to rush the summer season by tempting displays of light silken fabrics. The trim little jacket that accompanies this suit, as a rule, is collarless and finished with innumerable rows of the machine stitching, and perhaps a few dozen tiny buttons or tiny taffeta strappings to give the youthful touch.

••••• A weird contribution to tellings is known as

the "automobile," and is intended for both men and women. Heavy chiffon is the material of which it is made, and large concave glasses, without any magnifying power, are rimmed with rubber and sewed in to fit over the eyes of the chauffeur. The veil has a drawing with which to fasten it to the neck, and it is said to add greatly to the comfort of individuals who are sufficiently indifferent to the question of looks to wear it.

••••• A novelty in millinery is the hat made entirely of a rich shade of green moss on a wire frame. It is usually trimmed with small pink roses and buds or sprays of forget-me-nots, which have diminutive pink buds at the tips. Turbans covered with white, pink or blue tulle, without any ornamentation, have caught the popular fancy, and a queer little hat in a rolled-up sailor shape is made in imitation of deck basketwork, with slender twigs radiating from the crown and forming the groundwork for the lacings made of strands of imitation reed.

••••• In lingerie there are the daintiest of spring effects. A corset cover and short skirt combined is elaborately trimmed with insertion, which outlines a short-waisted finish, for wear with Empire gowns and the wide ribbon which forms the shoulder straps and bows extends down nearly to the edge of the skirt, where it terminates in a lover's knot bow. Another of this style of garment has a wide lattice work of ribbon as the heading for the flounce, and a bolero of lace is finished with a heading of lace and edged with embroidery. The heading has a medium width ribbon running through it, which laces to the front of the waist, where it terminates with a bow knot and long streamers.

••••• When in search of a suit that will stand laundering, the woman who keeps pace with the times asks for a "tub" suit, this classification includes those made of a dainty and fashionable and others of the washable variety.

••••• White watered silk, embroidered with pearls representing wheat and grapes, was one of the most striking gowns seen at a recent ball in Paris. The corsage was cut in the short-waisted Josephine effect.

••••• The tops of "snay" fasteners for kid gloves have pompadour effects on white grounds. Among the solid colors soft greens, blues and pinks are the most in demand.

••••• Oriental laces are especially well adapted to the present style of hat trimming.

••••• The demand for hat bands has led to the introduction of the black veil with red dots or figures. The figures are small in size and brilliant in color.

••••• Three bands of fancy silk braid, caught together at intervals and fastened at the front with a small buckle, form a dainty and fashionable belt. These belts are also to be had in bands of velvet.

••••• A white linen collar to be worn with shirt waists fastens at the back, and has a turnover finish, with a point at the front.

••••• A novelty lace cape is elbow length, and made of white applique lace over black taffeta. It is bordered with a silk ruffle, and has a high, ruff collar. The front is finished with long black and white satin streamers.

••••• The tops of "snay" fasteners for kid gloves are now made in extra large size. Some of these are as large as a five-cent piece, and ornamented with a fancy design.—New York Tribune.

The World Beautiful.

Lillian Whiting in Boston Budget.
"We are escorted through life by spiritual angels, and a beneficent purpose lies in wait for the soul. The reality is more excellent than the report. Here is no ruin, no discontinuity, no spent ball. The divine circulations never rest; nor linger. Nature is the incarnation of a thought, and turns to a thought again, as ice becomes water and water is in turn precipitated, and the volatile essence is forever escaping again into the state of free thought. Hence the virtue and pungency of the influence on the mind of natural objects, whether inorganic or organic. Man imprisoned, man crystallized, man engendered, speaks to man imperceptibly. That power which does not respect quantity, which makes the whole and the particle its equal channel, delegates its smile to the morning, and distills its essence into every drop of rain. Every moment in the life of the soul is wisdom infused into every form, for every object is poured into us as blood; it convulsed us as pain; it slid into us as pleasure; it enveloped us in dull, melancholy days, or in days of cheerful labor; we did not guess its essence, until after a long time."—Emerson.

That we are "escorted through life by spiritual angels" is the truest word that can be said of the experience in this present stage of existence. To him who feels, perceives, recognizes, this subtle, invisible guidance and leading, the days are luminous by its invisible direction; it is the pillar of fire by night and the cloud that beckons on by day. In any perception of the force and the perpetual impressiveness of this invisible leading, it is almost incredible to hear of doubts and even unbelief in immortality. The handwriting on the wall of every day announces that we are immortal now. If this be true, there is no reason to suppose that we shall suffer a sea change and cease to be immortal. "The knowledge that we traverse the whole scale of being, from the centre to the poles of nature, and have some stake in every possibility, lends that sublime lustre to death which philosophy and religion have too outwardly and literally striven to express in the popular doctrine of the immortality of the soul," says Emerson, and the phrasing is not too strong. Sublime as is the conception of immortality, the common, daily experiences may far transcend it. Life is a divine drama. It is played on a stage infinite in its extent and practically unlimited in its cast. The figures come and go. Combinations more incredible than the play that the most romantic playwright could dream are effected before our very eyes. The friend whom we thought of as in India or Australia suddenly stands before us. More surprising still, he arrives at the very moment when his aid—in sympathy, or influence, or suggestion, is the one factor needed to turn the scale. And a combination of circumstances—far-reaching, more strange and incredible than a novel, has resulted in bringing him to this particular place and hour. Who, that watches with any intelligent recognition the daily drama of his own life, can by any conceivable possibility doubt the beneficent and divinely overruling power? And if this Power be over his life yesterday, today and tomorrow, when, indeed, it is to be withdrawn? Surely no arbitrary date can be fixed for that. Surely one realizes that the Power grows, increases, to just that degree to which he himself is receptive to it, and he can but say in the words of the Psalmist, "Surely, goodness and mercy shall accompany me all my days, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever!"

This dwelling in "the house of the Lord" is by no means a mere figure of speech. Nor is it to be regarded as some ineffable privilege to be—possibly to be—enjoyed after that change we call death. Its real significance is here and now. One must dwell in "the house of the Lord" today, and every day. The "house of the Lord" is a beautiful figurative expression for that spiritual atmosphere in which one may perpetually live, and in which it is his simple duty to both live and to radiate to all around him.

One of the ethical problems that force themselves upon intelligent attention at the present time is that of suicide. It is alarmingly prevalent. It is—statistics are correct—increasing. The statistics talk of periods of it as "an epidemic." Both science and religion take note of it, discuss its bearing upon life, its tendency and its possible prevention. It is seen as the re-

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sult of both great and of trivial causes, it is seen to follow a great sin, and to be the terribly mistaken—refuge of a great sorrow. And the remedy lies? It can hardly be elsewhere than in a deeper understanding of the very nature of life itself. The greatest remedy will be found in the larger central understanding that life cannot be extinguished. One may destroy his physical body,—he can do that at any moment and by an infinite variety of methods. But he cannot destroy himself. He may deprive himself of the instrument that was given to him for use in the physical world; he cannot escape from the duties that he should have fulfilled when he had the means in the use of this instrument we called the body. If science and religion could teach the awful results that follow suicide, the terrible isolation and deprivation in which the spirit of being who has thrown away his instrument of service finds himself, it would be the one effective cure for a demoralizing tendency. If one has sinned,—sometime and somewhere must he meet the consequences. He cannot escape them by escaping from his body, and the sooner he meets them, in repentance and atonement, the sooner will he work out to better and brighter conditions. If one encounters disaster or great personal sorrow, what then? One does not throw away all his possibilities of usefulness because he is himself unhappy. If he does, he is doing a ignoble. Life is a divine drama. It is a divine responsibility, primarily between each soul and God. It is one's business to live bravely, with dignity, with faith, with generosity of consideration and good will, with love, indeed, which is the expression of the highest energy. "I am primarily engaged to myself," said Emerson, "to be a public servant of all the gods; to demonstrate to all men that there is good will and intelligence at the heart of things, and ever higher and yet higher leadings, these are my engagements, with the power in good intention, in fidelity and in love, the north wind shall be purer, the stars in heaven shall glow with a kinder beam that I have lived."

These words convey with exquisite and perfect perfection the only true theory of life.
The Dewey, Washington.

Notes and Queries.

THE MITRE.—"R. W. C.": The mitre seems to have sunk into disuse in post-Reformation times, except as an ornament existing in the arms of the different sees, though now it is being revived and worn by some of the Bishops of the Anglican Church. Sir Bernard Burke, whom every one must allow to be a high authority on heraldic matters, merely assigns the dual coat to the See of Durham, and omits to mention the arms of Canterbury and York, where it is usually placed, and the coronet, from its having been thus used, I suppose, entitles them to be styled "Your Grace." Samuel

George Wilkes (2.22.)

The first appearance of George Wilkes in public race was at Fashion Course, L. I., on Aug. 1, 1861, where under the name of Rob-
 ert Fillingham he won a purse of \$500, beating Belfounder and Abdallah Chief, giving the first heat to the latter in 2:33, winning the next three in 2:34, 2:33, and 2:34, respectively, following which he was sold for \$3,000 to the late John A. Allen, and for \$2,000 to the late J. B. Smith, one of the fastest entire horses then upon turf, his record to harness being at that time 2:23, and with running mate 2:19. The race came off at Fashion Course, Sept. 1, 1862, and proved an easy victory for Robert Fillingham in straight heats; time, 2:23, 2:23, 2:31. Previous to this he had been shown a trial timed by the late Samuel

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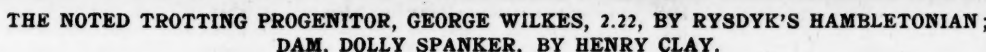
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On the strength of the facts obtained from J. S. Lewis and Mr. J. P. Ray, Mr. Wallace registered Dolly Spanker as by Henry Clay: dam, Telegraph, by Baker's Highlander. In a subsequent interview, Dr. Clark Phillips, who bred the mare that was got by Henry Clay, stated to Mr. J. P. Ray that he took Telegraph, the dam of this mare, to Henry Clay when the horse was owned by Bailey Cross, of Bristol, N. Y. He states this from memory, and something more than thirty years after the event occurred. There is no doubt, however, but that he is honest and conscientious in the matter, but there is good evidence which proves most conclusively

These classes were judged by Messrs. C. W. Lasell of Whitinsville, Mass., David Stonner of New York and Albert C. Hall, Stamford, Ct.

Mr. Lawson made a clean sweep in the trotting-breed classes. In only one class did he have any opposition whatever. This was in Class 3, for trotting stallions, four years old or over; but in spite of the fact that it was practically a Lawson exhibit, it was, nevertheless, interesting, for the horses shown were high types of the breed and excited the admiration of critical horsemen.

At the eighth-horse class, judged on Monday was Class 6, for roadsters, for horses four years old, or over, to be shown to wagon. This brought out thirteen competitors and some among them high-class horses. The blue ribbon was awarded that beautiful show mare, Allie Nun, by Allie Wilkes, owned by E. T. Stotesbury, Philadelphia. Second prize was given to the Leona, owned by the same gelding Evening Star, by Greenrier, and the bay mare Gambrella, by

Wednesday afternoon Class 8, for horses and best appointed road rig, horse to count sixty per cent., wagon twelve per cent., harness seven per cent., robes, blanket and whip six per cent., general appointments, saddle, etc., fifteen per cent., was judged. Little Nun was again the victor in this class. J. Shepard's Altro L. was second, Mr. Lawson's Gambrela third and Mr. Hoffman's Vida Wilkes fourth.

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